

duced, but instead, we have either irregular oscillations, or a slight rise which, according to circumstances, outlasts the irritation itself, for a longer or shorter time. Irritation of other superficial cerebral regions, either before, behind, or external to the ones described, has no effect on the temperature.

6. Irritation or injury of the lumbar cord, and likewise, of the peripheral nerve trunks (sciatic) has, when it is performed along with the injury to these cortical regions, and the comparison of temperatures, still the usual thermic alterations in the posterior members as a consequence.

The authors reserve a full discussion of the signification of these experimental results for the present. Still, they feel justified in inferring the existence of cortical, vaso-motor centres, which serve in part, as central terminations to the fibres in the cerebral peduncles, and which perhaps, serve as a route of transmission of psychic influences over the vaso-motor routes, and on the other hand, serve to produce the consciousness of local alterations of the temperature, and the circulation through the mediation of the associated cortical system.

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Dr. E. Hitzig, *Centralbl. f. d. med. Wissensch.* No. 18, recalls the fact, that he had observed, and reported in (*Reichert u. DuBois Reymond's Archiv.* 1874. Hft. 4), a unilateral warming of the body after injury of the brain, to such a degree that it was perceptible without instrumental aid. He, therefore, confirms the two most important points in the communication of Eulenberg and Landois, (1.) that superficial injury to the cerebrum, causes notable alterations of temperature in the limbs of the side opposite to the lesion; and (2) that in this relation, the same law of localization prevails, as in the case of motor phenomena starting from the cerebral cortex.

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THE THERMIC ACTION OF PERIPHERAL IRRITATION AND DIVISION OF THE NERVE TRUNKS. In *Virchow's Archiv.*, LXVI., 14.—April, 1876 Drs. Eulenberg and Landois report experiments on the subject of the thermic effects of peripheral irritation and section of the nerve trunks. After a detailed statement of their methods and apparatus, the principal point in which was the use of the Meissner-Meyerstein galvanometer with thermo-electric appliances, they give their experiments in detail. The subjects were rabbits and dogs, and the nerves experimented upon were the cervical sympathetic and the sciatic. They found that irritation of the cervical sympathetic in its continuity caused a direct decrease of temperature of the ear of the corresponding side, which lasted some fifteen or twenty seconds after the cessation of the irritation, and gave place to a rise of temperature above the normal.

Section of the sympathetic caused after a very slight and transient fall, ( $0.1^{\circ}$  to  $0.2^{\circ}$  C., 10 seconds in duration,) a steady and rapid rise of temperature of the corresponding ear. Irritation of its peripheral end gave very much the same results as irritation of its continuity.

The results of experiments on the sciatic in dogs and rabbits were as follows:

Section of the sciatic caused immediately a slow, but steadily increasing rise of temperature of the foot of the corresponding side. Strong irritation of the peripheral portion caused, after a short latent period, (fifteen seconds) a steady increase of temperature of the foot. After very prolonged irritation, a slight increase takes place after the diminution has reached its maximum. If at this stage, while the temperature is still on the rise, the peripheral end of the sciatic is again irritated, the temperature again falls, but after a longer latent period, (30 seconds) and to a less degree than during the former irritation.

Further investigations are promised by the authors on this, and related phenomena.

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SECTION OF THE POSTERIOR ROOTS OF THE SPINAL NERVE.—M. Couty has divided in frogs the posterior roots of the spinal nerves, and then compared the members thus rendered anæsthetic, with the normal ones. Although the movements of these anæsthetized members were considerably embarrassed, there was no diminution of contractility revealed by electrical examination.

We scarcely ever observe any appreciable trouble in the nutrition of other parts of the anæsthetized members, the skin, cellular tissue, etc., and this, notwithstanding the fact that some of the animals experimented upon had survived two, and even six, months after the operation. Hence we may conclude from these experiments, that division of the posterior roots and interruption of centripetal conduction has no influence on the nutrition, at least, not in frogs.

Twice, only, in more than forty experiments, there followed an arthropathy of the knee of the leg anæsthetized, with swelling of the corresponding osseous terminations, and cedema of the whole member; in a third frog there was cedema without the arthropathy. These disorders, true complications, were not due to any consecutive myelitis, since the symptoms of this were not present, and it is probable that they had their cause in a contusion or alteration of the posterior sensitive ganglion. *C. R. Soc. de Biologie* session of April 9th. *Gaz. des Hôpitaux*.

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THE OPHTHALMIC GANGLION.—M. Reichart, in a memoir published in Munich, 1875, abstr. in *Centralbl. f. d. med. Wissensch.* No. 8, gives the results of an investigation on the anatomy of the ophthalmic ganglion, undertaken by himself under the direction of Bischoff and Rudinger. He first gives a historical sketch of the subject, and description of his method, the principal point in which was the employment of optical appliances in the aid of observations on objects that had been preserved in spirits of wine. He then gives a description of the ganglion, and notices the following facts: the presence of a single long root is to be considered as exceptional; there are, on the other hand, several sensory roots; there is usually not a single vaso-motor root, but a small number